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IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please add a new paragraph after paragraph 25 on page 6, before the caption "detailed description" which reads:

[0026] Fig. 13 is a flow diagram illustrating a method of determining protection transmission unit allocation on a protection cycle on a communication cycle according to an embodiment of the invention.

Please also replace paragraph 34 with the following paragraph:

[0034] Fig. 5 illustrates the ring of Fig. 4, in which network element 5 has experienced failure and traffic is switched to protection. According to an embodiment of the invention, information associated with the flows through all nodes on the ring is distributed to all other nodes on the ring, e.g., when the flow is provisioned on the ring. (Fig. 13, block 100). Accordingly, each node on the ring is able to determine which flows are affected by the failure of the node (Fig. 13, block 102) and to calculate where on protection the various flows will be placed (Fig. 13, block 104).